

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
STORAGE IGLOO
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 3542)
Off Perimeter Road in Weapons Storage Area
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-AL

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
STORAGE IGLOO
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 3542)

HAER No. NY-326-AL

Location: Off Perimeter Road, in Weapons Storage Area, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York.

UTM: 18.621920.4943020
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1956

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 3542, along with all the other storage igloos, was constructed in 1956 according to standard Air Force planning criteria. Building No. 3542 was used to store Strategic Readiness Air Mission (SRAM) missiles in ready-alert condition for FB-11A aircraft, with three such igloos required to house the missile and payload requirements of one wing of the FB-111A aircraft. As such, the Storage Igloo was a vital part of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) readiness mission, and was a building type common to Air Force SAC installations.

Project Information: Building 3542 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey
Deborah Dobson-Brown
Earth Tech, Inc.
1461 East Cooley Drive
Colton, CA 92324

Summary Description of Storage Igloo (Building No. 3542)

Layout

Building No. 3542 is a 2,424 square-foot structure measuring 54'-0" x 29'-0". It is constructed of reinforced concrete shaped in an arched form. The exterior of the igloo is covered with a grass covered, earthen berm, giving it a distinctive mound appearance. The front of the igloo is treated with a roughly triangular-shaped, reinforced concrete retaining wall; centered in that wall are double steel, blast doors. Building No. 3542, along with ten others, has a reinforced concrete vestibule with a metal overhead garage door added for the purpose of further protecting the blast doors from the weather. This shallow vestibule has a flat roof and extends approximately 2 feet out from the face of the retaining wall. Building 3542 is an example with an original door configuration.

Alterations/Additions

Other than the aforementioned vestibule addition, there have been no alterations or additions made to Building No. 3542.

Function

Building No. 3542 is identical in construction and appearance to Building Nos. 3516, 3518, 3521, 3522, 3524, 3525, 3528, 3529, 3530, 3533, 3534, 3536, 3540, and 3546, each of which is located in the same area, and were constructed to store mass detonating explosives where moisture condensation was not a problem. As such, Building 3542 and the others provided protection against propagation explosions between adjacent storage buildings.

Significance

Building No. 3542, along with all the other storage igloos, was constructed in 1956 according to standard Air Force planning criteria. Building No. 3542 was used to store Strategic Readiness Air Mission (SRAM) missiles in ready-alert condition for FB-11A aircraft, with three such igloos required to house the missile and payload requirements of one wing of the FB-111A aircraft. As such, the Storage Igloo was a vital part of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) readiness mission, and was a building type common to Air Force SAC installations.

Sources

Hopkins, J.C. and Sheldon A. Goldberg
1986 *The Development of Strategic Air Command 1946-1986 (The Fortieth Anniversary History)*.
Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, 1
September.

Porcello, J.
1967 "Missile Sites Get Peaceful Use" in *Herald American "Empire,"* June 4.

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
STORAGE IGLOO
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 3542)
HAER No. NY-326-AL
(Page 3)

Tetra Tech Inc.

1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

1961 Plattsburgh AFB Real Property Accountable Record, 1961-1989.

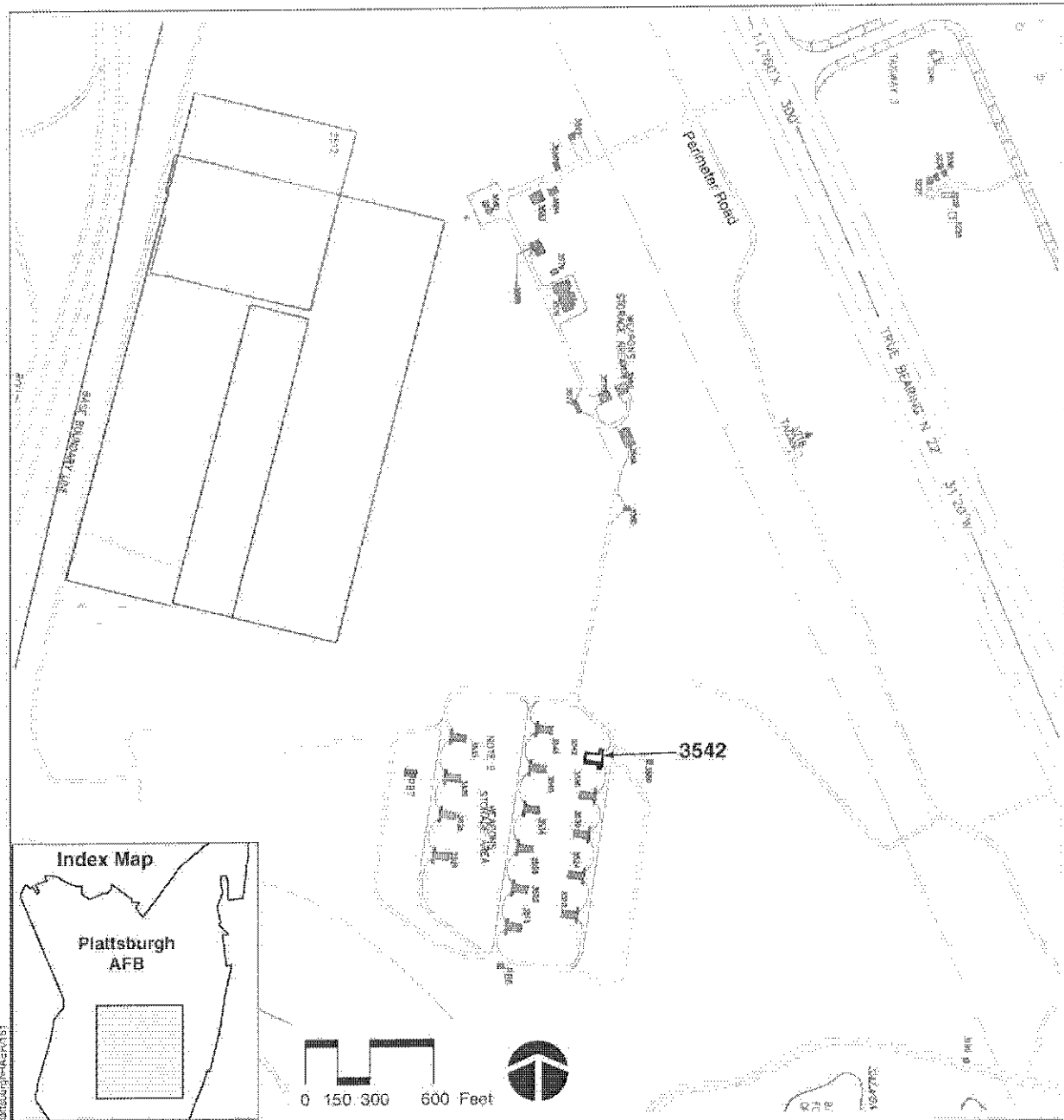
United States Air Force

2000 Plattsburgh AFB Real Property Inventory Detail List.

U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

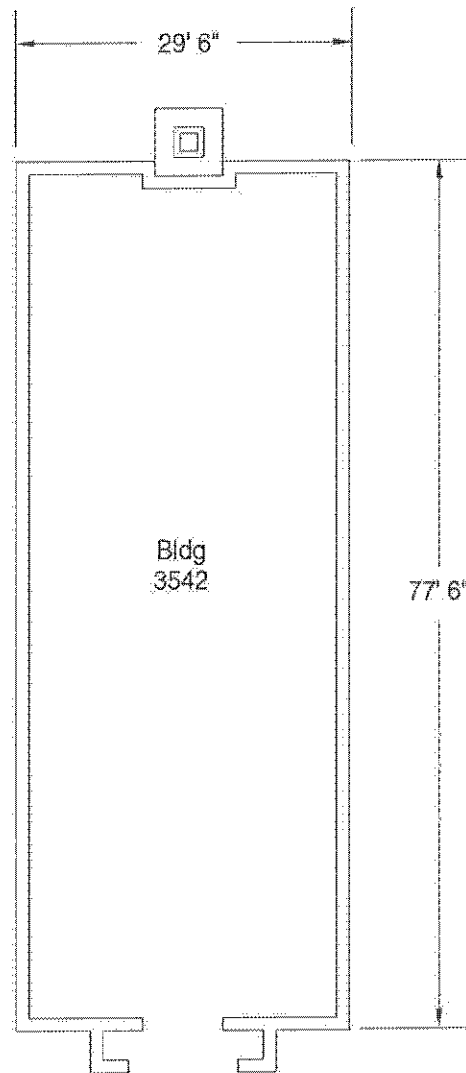
1998 *Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation Plattsburgh Air Force Base New York,* Volumes I and II, June.

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
 STORAGE IGLOO
 (Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 3542)
 HAER No. NY-326-AL
 (Page 4)



Location Map for Storage Igloo, Building No. 3542
 Copyright Free

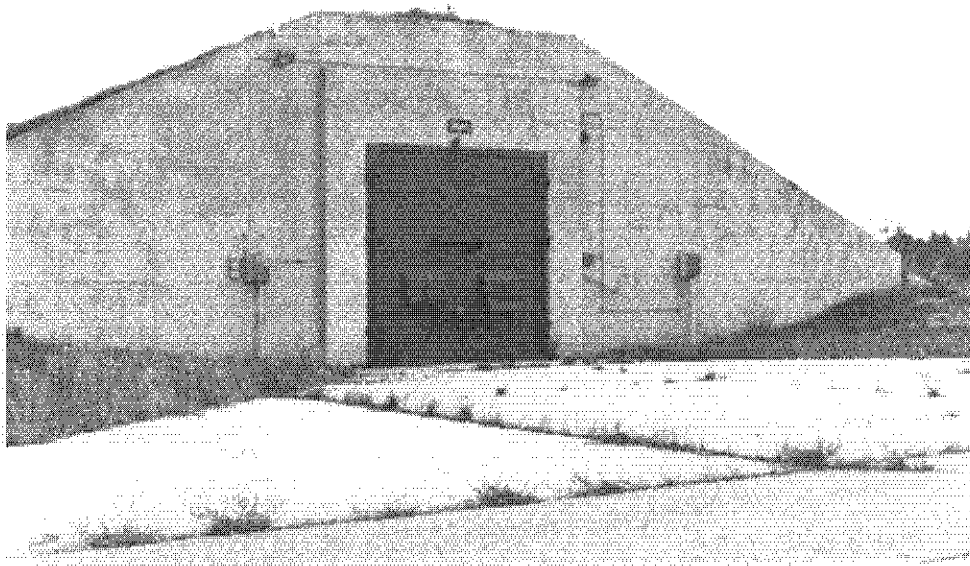
PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
STORAGE IGLOO
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 3542)
HAER No. NY-326-AL
(Page 5)



N →
Sketch not to Scale

SKETCH PLAN—STORAGE IGLOO
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 3542)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
Copyright Free

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
STORAGE IGLOO
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 3542)
HAER No. NY-326-AL
(Page 6)



Storage Igloo, Building No. 3540
Front Elevation Showing Original Doorway
Source: Earth Tech, Inc., October 13, 1997
Photographer: Joe Trinko (1997)